

VOLUME V

The

NUMBER 2

# A.T.A. Magazine

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE ALBERTA TEACHERS' ALLIANCE, INC.

MAGISTRI NEQUE SERVI



JULY, 1924



## Education is a Prime Necessity

Can we face our great national and Empire problems, our world problems, with an education system rooted in the requirements of what was thought necessary a half-century ago, short circuited by class and monetary considerations, cribbed, cabined and confined by the limitations of prejudice and ignorance? The marvel is that the administrator and the teacher have done so well under the circumstances. It is a tribute to their faith, their sincerity, their optimism, that the results show a far better return than might have been anticipated with the means at their disposal. National well-being is not a gamble where the race is to the swift and the battle to the strong! It is promoted by a deliberate and conscious effort of the community, whether in the intellectual, moral or economic spheres, to raise, and even to change, standards of value; to dispel ignorance and illusion; to train, guide and protect the young in the paths of higher effort and service; to educate all to the truth that real happiness consists more in giving than taking. Intellectual probity and balance, high moral endeavour, noble aspirations and ideals, recognition of civic duties and obligations—how may these be secured without a generous provision of education for the child, the adolescent and the adult? —Michael Conway, President of the N.U.T.

# SPECIAL TRAIN VIA-



## In Connection With Teachers' Federation Convention Victoria, B.C.-Aug. 12-16th, 1924

### WESTBOUND SCHEDULE

Lv. Toronto 1.00 p.m., Aug. 4  
Lv. Winnipeg 11.30 p.m., Aug. 6  
Lv. Regina 2.30 p.m., Aug. 7  
Ar. Calgary 11.00 a.m., Aug. 8  
Lv. Calgary 3.00 p.m., Aug. 8  
Ar. Banff 6.00 p.m., Aug. 8  
Lv. Banff 6.00 a.m., Aug. 10  
Ar. Lake Louise 7.10 a.m., Aug. 10  
Lv. Lake Louise 2.00 p.m., Aug. 10  
Ar. Sicamous 11.00 p.m., Aug. 10  
Lv. Sicamous 4.00 a.m., Aug. 11  
Ar. Vancouver 5.00 p.m., Aug. 11  
Lv. Vancouver 10.30 a.m., Aug. 12  
Ar. Victoria 3.00 p.m., Aug. 12

### EASTBOUND SCHEDULE

Lv. Victoria 2.15 p.m., Aug. 17  
Ar. Vancouver 7.15 p.m., Aug. 17  
Lv. Vancouver 8.15 p.m., Aug. 17  
Ar. Penticton 7.35 p.m., Aug. 18  
Lv. Penticton 7.45 a.m., Aug. 19  
Ar. Cranbrook 4.10 p.m., Aug. 20  
Lv. Cranbrook (motor car) 5 p.m., Aug. 20  
Ar. Lake Windermere 9.00 p.m., Aug. 20  
Lv. L. W'mere (motor car) 9.00 a.m., Aug. 21  
Ar. Banff 5.00 p.m., Aug. 21  
Lv. Banff 10.37 p.m., Aug. 22  
Ar. Edmonton 8.30 a.m., Aug. 23  
Lv. Edmonton 10.00 p.m., Aug. 23  
Ar. Toronto 11.55 a.m., Aug. 29

Passengers may join special train at any point on Westbound journey, or may return with the special party on regular trains as outlined in Eastbound schedule above.

Literature and information as to inclusive charges for this trip, including fare, sleeping car, meals, hotels and drives, will be gladly furnished by J. F. Proctor, District Passenger Agent, Canadian Pacific Railway, Calgary.

## "Nothing Seems to Hurt Corona"

That is what people are saying about this sturdy portable typewriter, and especially is this true among the 600,000 owners of the Personal Writing Machine. A goodly number of these coronatypers are teachers who find it so admirably adapted to their particular needs. Many machines have been doing perfect work for 16 or 17 years, some without a penny for repairs.

When buying an automobile or some similar product you scrutinize its record and find out what owners say about it. If you will apply the same test to portable typewriters, you will decide to make Corona your next machine. Corona costs but half as much as a standard office machine, is vastly more convenient, yet does the same work just as efficiently, and is the most economical typewriter on the market.



"I am writing this letter to you on a Standard Folding Typewriter (Corona's early name) that was purchased by me in the year 1906, I think, and has been my constant companion ever since. I have never spent a cent on it for repairs and would not sell it for twice its purchase price." Signed: Irving S. Ventres.

This voluntary testimonial came from Mr. Ventres after he had used his machine for 16 years. For further information and owners' opinions, write to

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CALGARY, ALBERTA

Phone M5180







# The A.T.A. Magazine

MAGISTRI NEQUE SERVI

Official Organ of the Alberta Teachers' Alliance, Inc.  
Published on the First of Each Month.



EXECUTIVE OF A.T.A. 1924-25.

President: W. W. Scott, Calgary.

Immediate Past President: J. E. Somerville, Edmonton.

Vice-President: S. R. Tompkins, Lethbridge.

GENERAL SECRETARY-TREASURER: John W. Barnett, 10701 University Ave., Edmonton.

TRUSTEES: F. Parker, Calgary; H. L. Humphreys, Edmonton; J. Stevenson, Pincher Creek; J. McCrea, Vegreville; C. Riley, Medicine Hat.

SOLICITORS: Van Allen, Simpson & Co., Edmonton.

LAW COMMITTEE: S. R. Tompkins, F. Parker, C. Riley.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: H. Leonard Humphreys, Jas. McCrea, J. E. Somerville.

## The A.T.A. Magazine

EDITOR: H. C. Newland, M.A., L.L.B., Edmonton.

ASSOCIATE EDITORS: T. E. A. Stanley, Calgary; J. T. Cuyler, Medicine Hat; Miss M. J. Goudle, Medicine Hat; C. S. Edwards, Edmonton; J. D. Ferguson, Calgary.

BUSINESS MANAGER: John W. Barnett, Edmonton.

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Non-Members - - - - - \$1.50 per annum

Vol. V.

Edmonton, July, 1924.

No. 2

LIMESTONE LAKE S. D.

LUCKNOW S. D.

WABAMUN SCHOOL BOARD

WAINWRIGHT S. D. No. 1658

GLENWOOD CONSOLIDATED No. 32

REDCLIFF SCHOOL BOARD

VERMILION SCHOOL BOARD

CRAIGMYLE SCHOOL BOARD

Candidates selected for the above posts who are members of the A.T.A. are earnestly requested to apply for information to

JOHN W. BARNETT,  
General Secretary-Treasurer,  
Alberta Teachers' Alliance,  
10701 University Ave., Edmonton.

## Official Announcements

### TO SECRETARIES OF LOCALS:

#### PAYMENTS REQUIRED OF MEMBERS

Annual Salary	Membership Dues to	Subscription to The A.T.A.	Total
	A.T.A.	Magazine	
(1) Under \$1500 .....	\$ 5.00	\$ 1.00	\$6.00
(2) \$1500 but less than \$2000.....	7.00	1.00	8.00
(3) \$2000 but less than \$2500.....	9.00	1.00	10.00
(4) \$2500 and over .....	10.00	1.00	11.00

These fees do NOT include the local Alliance fee.

### IMPORTANT

In connection with a reorganization of certain administrative features of our Provincial Alliance, as unanimously resolved at the recent Annual General Meeting, the Provincial Executive have appointed its undernamed members as a Finance Committee (honorary, of course) to effect close supervision, on the Executive's behalf, of Alliance finances and financial policies. Increased economical and efficient service will, it is hoped, result.

Economical and efficient service, however, both present and future, can only be secured in this matter by the co-operation of every member in PROMPT payment of membership fees. Dilatoriness in this vital matter cripples executive service in every department, whether in maintaining protection of teacher status already secured, or in any new developments; and the latter may be necessary at any moment. Service from such an institution as the Alliance is directly proportional to its funds in hand.

In agreement with the above well-known facts we issue this urgent request to Secretaries of Locals and members generally to forward immediately to the General Secretary-Treasurer all provincial fees in hand and as received, and to initiate promptly an active collection campaign for the balance, and in the recruiting of new members.

On July 1, all the activities of the Alliance and its affiliated organizations will be housed in excellent offices located in the Imperial Bank Building, at the corner of Jasper Avenue and 100th Street, Edmonton. Will every local and every Alliance member do their part to make this change in both premises and administration an epoch-making one in the interests of Alberta teachers by AT ONCE putting the funds in such a condition of stability as will enable your Executive to go forward?

Yours in Alliance service,  
H. Leonard Humphreys,  
J. McCrea,  
J. E. Somerville,  
Provincial Finance Committee.

## Members, Attention!

On and after July 1 next the address of Headquarters will be changed from 10701 University Avenue, Edmonton, to

## Imperial Bank Building

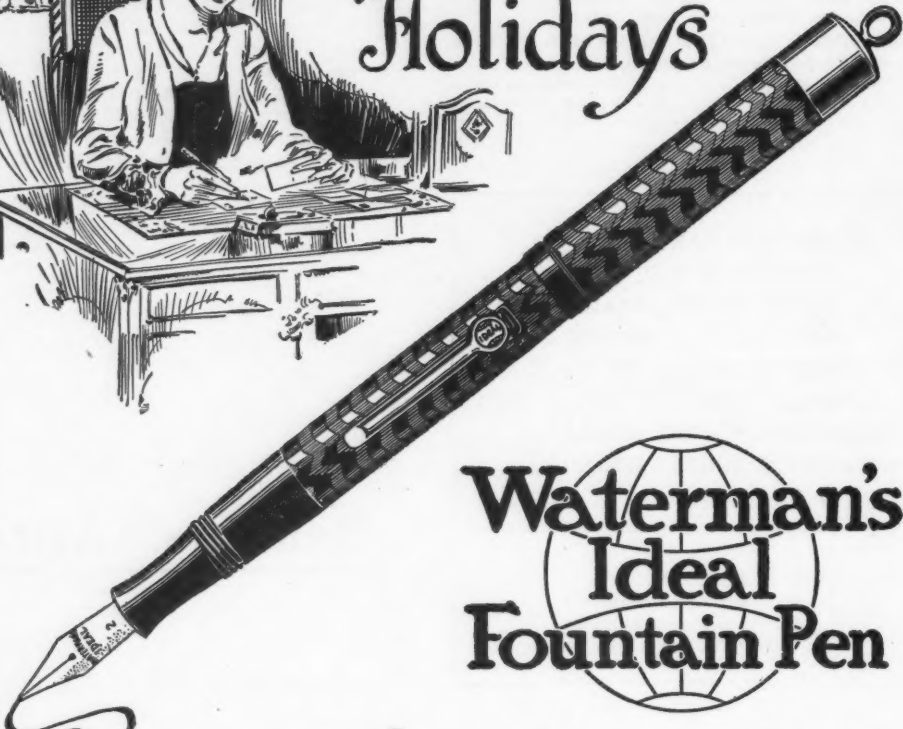
(Third Floor),

Corner Jasper and 100th Street, Edmonton.

The A.T.A. Bureau of Education offices will be on the same floor of the Imperial Bank Building.



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School  
and  
Holidays



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Ideal  
Fountain Pen

*Connects Thought and Action.*

## NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF LOCAL SECRETARIES

Local Alliance	Name and Address of Secretary
BANFF .....	Hugh J. Macdonald.
BASHAW .....	J. L. West, Bashaw.
BEISEKER .....	D. Gallagher
BELLEVUE .....	Mr. C. V. Asselstine, B.A., Bellevue.
BLAIRMORE .....	Miss V. J. Keith.
BROOKS .....	Miss M. B. Warren.
CALGARY PUBLIC .....	F. Parker, 929 4th Ave. W.
CALGARY SEPARATE .....	Jos. English, 535 18th Ave. N.W.
CALGARY HIGH .....	H. B. Love, Commercial High School.
CAMROSE .....	Miss L. Lang
CANMORE .....	Miss E. M. Cowan.
CARDSTON .....	Miss Lucille Woolf, Cardston.
CHAUVIN .....	Mr. G. W. Saul, Chauvin.
CHINOOK .....	Mr. J. Glover, Chinook.
CHIPMAN .....	F. L. Tilson
CLARESHOLM .....	I. J. Kain.
OLIVE .....	Mr. G. Shaver, Olive.
CONSORT .....	C. G. Nimmons
DALROY .....	O. C. Reed
DAYSLAND .....	Mr. J. F. Barker, Daysland.
DONALDA .....	Miss L. M. Plack, Donalda.
DRUMHELLER .....	Chas. Bremner.
EDMONTON HIGH .....	Mr. A. E. Rosborough, 9611 83 Ave.
EDMONTON PUBLIC .....	W. Wees, Fitzgear School.
EDMONTON SEPARATE .....	Miss Irene Fitzgerald, 10738 108th S
ELNORA .....	Manson I. Kelly.
GLEICHEN .....	Miss A. H. Noble.
GRANUM .....	Mr. G. Bishop, Granum.
HARDISTY .....	Mr. Foster.
HIGH RIVER .....	Miss A. Creighton, High River.
HILLOREST .....	Miss B. C. Sellon.
HOLDEN .....	A. Aldridge.
INNISFREE .....	Mr. Sam Crowther, Innisfree.
LACOMBE .....	Miss I. J. Hotson
LAMONT .....	Miss Ada A. Crilley, B.A.
LETHBRIDGE .....	P. S. Collins, 1740 7 Ave. N. Leth- bridge.
LETHBRIDGE HIGH .....	D. F. Pegrum, Y.M.C.A.
MAGRATH .....	Miss N. M. Taylor.
MEDICINE HAT PUBLIC .....	G. Holmes, 545 Dundee Street.
MEDICINE HAT HIGH .....	Mr. G. M. Dunlop, Alexandra High School.
MILLET .....	E. Anderson
MONTARIO .....	John Paul, Monitor
MUNDARE .....	Miss J. J. S. McCallum, Mundare.
NANTON .....	Mr. H. G. Menzies, M.A., Nanton.
NORDEGG .....	Miss E. McLaughlin
OKOTOKS .....	Miss L. C. Patterson, Okotoks.
OYEN .....	Mrs. Alice C. Robinson, Oyen.
PINCHER CREEK .....	Eric V. C. Tucker, Pincher Creek.
PROVOST .....	Miss B. L. Taylor.
RAYMOND .....	Jno. H. Blackmore, Raymond.
RED DEER .....	Miss Pearl Ebert, B.A., Red Deer.
SMOKY LAKE .....	W. Pinchuk, Smoky Lake
STETTNER .....	Miss Grace Rogers, Stettler.
STIRLING .....	M. Campbell, Stirling.
STROME .....	M. Creig, Strome
STONY PLAIN .....	Leslie Robbins.
TROCHU .....	A. E. Warren, Trochu
VEGREVILLE .....	Miss I. M. Mitchell, Vegreville.
VIRING .....	Miss G. Gallagher.
VULCAN .....	Miss C. Wylie, B.A., Vulcan.
WETASKIWIN .....	Miss O. I. Blakeley, Wetaskiwin.

## PROVISIONAL LOCALS

ATHABASCA .....	Mr. C. O'Daly.
BELLIS .....	Mr. N. Pookkay.
CHAMPION .....	P. F. Tracy.

HALKIRK .....	Miss H. V. Forde.
LINFIELD .....	Mr. W. Wallace
ROSEMARY .....	Mr. McNamara, Rosemary

Newly appointed Secretaries of Locals are asked to inform Headquarters immediately after appointment in order that our record may be kept up-to-date. The list of Locals and Secretaries will be published every month in the A.T.A. Magazine.

## Local News

## CALGARY HIGH

On Thursday, June 5, the High School Teachers' Alliance held their annual meeting in the Tapestry Room of the Hudson's Bay Co. Store at 4.30 p.m. A representative number of the teachers were present, and after light refreshments were served the business part of the program followed.

Reports of the different committees for the past year were highly satisfactory, and showed the Alliance to be in a flourishing condition. Mr. Flick, Secretary-Treasurer, reported a favorable balance of cash in the bank.

A very interesting part of the meeting was the election of officers for the coming year, and considerable interest was shown regarding the future of our local Alliance. The following officers were elected:

President—Mr. R. D. Webb, of the Commercial High School.

Vice-President—Mr. F. D. Weir, of the East Calgary High School.

Secretary-Treasurer—Mr. H. B. Love, of the Commercial High School.

Executive Committee—

Central High—Miss J. Elliott and Mr. H. E. Smith.

Crescent Heights—Miss M. Giles and Mr. E. D. Campbell.

South Calgary—Mr. W. G. E. Pulleyblank and Mr. W. E. Hay.

East Calgary—The Vice-President and one to be appointed.

Commercial High—The President and Secretary-Treasurer.

Plans are in course of preparation for another successful year, and the members of the High School Teachers' Alliance are looking forward to some very interesting sessions.

## LETHBRIDGE

The Annual General Meeting of the Lethbridge Local of the Alberta Teachers' Alliance was held on Wednesday, May 7th, at 4.30 p.m., in Central School, with a fair attendance.

Excellent reports of the Provincial A.G.M. at Calgary had been prepared by our delegates, Miss Jean Jackson, Mrs. McLeod and Mr. Bruce. These were listened to attentively, and heartily applauded. The reports of the officers having been read, the election of officers for 1924-5 was proceeded with. Mr. Bruce was re-elected President, Mrs. McLeod was chosen as Vice-President, and Mr. P. J. Collins as Secretary-Treasurer. With the officers, the following representatives were selected to form the Executive: Misses Ballantyne, Bateman, Currie and McDiarmid, and Mr. C. E. Brandow.

During the meeting ice cream and cake were served by the Central School members.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT A.T.A. PUBLISHING CO., LTD., MAY 1, 1923, TO MARCH 31, 1924.****PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT**

REVENUE	
Sales .....	\$12,545.70
Supplies and Stencils .....	\$2,131.72
Instructors' Contracts .....	5,675.00
Instructors' Royalties .....	786.34
Instructors' Salaries .....	171.65
	<u>8,764.71</u>
Less Inventory Value of Stencils and Lessons on Hand March 31, 1924 .....	5,174.50
Cost of Lessons Sold .....	3,590.21
Gross Profit .....	<u>\$8,955.49</u>
EXPENSES	
Commissions .....	\$2,957.87
Office Salaries .....	3,639.95
Rent and Upkeep .....	580.00
General Expenses .....	353.22
Office Expense .....	270.27
Postage .....	296.40
Printing and Advertising .....	72.77
Insurance .....	31.40
Reserve for Bad Debts .....	400.00
Depreciation on Furniture and Fixtures .....	116.73
	<u>8,718.61</u>
Net Profit .....	<u>\$ 236.88</u>

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

Alberta Government Telephones .....	\$ 7.20
Alberta College .....	32.90
S. B. Beare Ltd. ....	222.57
City Window Cleaners .....	5.00
H. N. Kennedy Co. ....	78.35
Hodder and Stoughton .....	3.05
McDermid Engraving Co. ....	20.90
Murdoch Stationery Co. ....	247.00
North Western Utilities .....	34.50
Revillon Wholesale .....	139.88
North Western Utilities .....	1.45
Reid Press, Ltd. ....	22.20
Roche Printing Co. ....	15.86
Roche Printing Co. ....	30.00
Tilley Press, Ltd. ....	10.49
United Typewriter Co. ....	540.50
Van Allen Simpson Co. ....	7.82
Wilson Stationery Co. ....	47.25
	<u>\$1,466.92</u>

**BALANCE SHEET****ASSETS**

Current Assets:	
Cash on Hand .....	\$ 3.00
Salesmen's Advances .....	395.33
Canadian Teachers' Federation .....	24.61
Accounts Receivable (Exhibit 1) .....	\$3,747.60
Less Bad Debt Reserve .....	400.00
	<u>3,770.54</u>
Inventory, Lessons, Stencils, etc .....	5,174.50
Fixed Assets:	
Furniture and Fixtures .....	1,167.33
Less Reserve for Depreciation .....	116.73
	<u>1,050.60</u>
Nominal:	
Organization Expense .....	428.45
	<u>\$10,424.09</u>

**LIABILITIES**

Current Liabilities:	
Bank of Nova Scotia:	
Outstanding	
Cheques .....	\$ 228.75
Less Bank Balance .....	182.88
	<u>\$ 45.87</u>
Accounts Payable (Exhibit 2) .....	1,466.92
H. C. Newland—Advance .....	463.24
Alberta Teachers' Alliance .....	43.84
	<u>2,019.87</u>
Deferred:	
Instructors' Accounts .....	5,304.34
Capital and Surplus:	
Capital Authorized \$20,000.00	
Less Unallotted .....	16,950.00
	<u>3,050.00</u>
Subscribed .....	3,050.00
Less Due by Shareholders .....	187.00
	<u>2,863.00</u>
Fully Paid Up .....	2,863.00
Profit as per Profit and Loss Statement .....	236.88
	<u>3,099.88</u>
	<u>\$10,424.09</u>

To the Shareholders of A.T.A. Publishing Co., Ltd.,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Edmonton, Alberta,  
April 18, 1924.

We have audited the books and records of your Company for the period from May 1st, 1923, to March 31st, 1924, and have found the books to be well and properly kept.

All information asked for has been readily given, and all our requirements as auditors have been complied with. We have prepared and submit herewith Balance Sheet as at March 31st, 1924, together with Profit and Loss Statement for the period ending that date.

The inventory as shown on the Balance Sheet in the amount of \$5,174.50 is arrived at by valuing the courses still on hand at the cost of instructors' contracts amounting to \$5,675.00, plus material and labour cost of \$1,900.00, less one-third, being the expired portion of the life of these courses, together with a further sum of \$175.00, covering actual supplies on hand as at March 31st, 1924.

The deferred liability of \$5,304.34 as shown on the Balance Sheet due to Instructors is payable during the course of the next two years as the lessons on hand are submitted to the public.

A reserve for loss from Bad Debts has been created to the extent of \$400.00, and we believe will amply cover any loss from this source. The usual reserve of 10 per cent. has been set up for depreciation on furniture and fixtures.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

HARRY O. PATRIQUIN, Chartered Accountant.



## Communications

New Norway, May 18th.

Editor, A.T.A. Magazine.

Dear Sir,—I was much interested in the address of the efficient Secretary-Treasurer as reported in your May number, and also in the resolution re the reduction of school inspectors passed by the Convention. Now, I want to give you a sample of the "guidance" of an inspector which came under my own personal notice.

About 1.15 o'clock on a spring afternoon, just as the classes finished their song, a tap came at the door. The teacher opened it, and the inspector introduced himself. His air of chilly indifference at once checked all spontaneity in the sensitive teacher. An examination of the register followed, and from the manner in which he inquired about the various absences, due to epidemics and serious illnesses during the term, one would have thought he at once suspected that the teacher was to blame. An inquiry as to what he wished taken up brought the reply that she was to follow her regular routine. This she attempted to do. Not a word of comment on the part of the inspector. She carried the scribblers containing the written work for the afternoon to him and requested him to look at them—no request to be allowed to see them came from him. As she had only been there three months, she asked him to look at some samples of the work taken at the commencement of the term, the teacher considering that by this means only could he judge of the pupils' advance. Result—a bored glance; no examination whatever. He resignedly fell in with her suggestion that he hear a class read whose lesson was taken in the morning only. No attempt was made to question them as to their comprehension of the text, though most of these children came from homes where a foreign tongue was spoken. No test whatever of their ability in number, save a glance at some problems placed on the board—the bulk of the work in number with that particular class was done in the morning. No examination of the time table, though it was as conspicuous as a bright red mount would make it. No question as to whom or how many she intended to pass. Once only did he make a move in his chair, and that was when the teacher politely inquired if he would not kindly turn around and look at some of the art work she had mounted and put up the previous evening. The number work, written composition, spelling and Industrial Art work of the lower grades were ignored completely, save only such inspection as took place when he turned around in his chair. No word of criticism or encouragement, though one of the worst schools in the inspectorate from the standpoint of discipline, and, as a consequence of progress, was being changed, thanks to the industry and ability of the teacher, to an ordered and efficient one. No report regarding grounds, outhouses, water supply or playground equipment was made to the Board, though it was a new school, grounds unfenced, no water supply and no playground equipment whatever for the junior grades. The teacher, who enjoyed the fullest confidence of the Board, reported her dissatisfaction with the inspection. The reply was this: "You are the third teacher who has made this same complaint. In my opinion, the inspection is only a farce."

It is such "guidance" and inspection as that outlined above which has primarily led rural trustees to

turn down a resolution asking for an increase in the number of inspectors. Rural people know that, while theoretically the principle of reduced inspection is wrong, practically it has very little ill effect. In the above case the teacher would have been better off without an inspection at all, as its only effect was to temporarily discourage and depress, and the school would not have suffered in the slightest.

Think of the teacher's standing being determined by such an inspection—a method imperfect at best, but at the worst, as instanced, execrable.

While the case cited above may be an extreme one, and while the writer has personal knowledge of efficient and conscientious work being done in this field, it nevertheless represents the methods of one inspector. So futile has the system proved in the past, however, that inspection generally has fallen into disrepute. One has only to listen to the discussions of intelligent rural people at such representative gatherings as the U.F.A. and U.F.W.A. Conventions to know how the system is regarded. That is why so little protest was voiced when word went forth that the axe was to be applied—not lack of interest, nor fear of embarrassing the farmer government.

What is really needed in rural schools is not annual or even semi-annual inspection; it is a system of supervision. This will not be accomplished until we have Municipal School Boards and municipal administration. The best that could be done under present conditions of finance and population would be to select a number of men and women, academically and professionally fitted, of course, but first and foremost men and women with a real, vital interest in education, and an intimate knowledge of, and true sympathy with, rural conditions. Let these be given special training for the work, then turn them loose. I venture to predict that five years would see an advance in the standard of rural education not dreamed of at present.

LEONA R. BARRETT,

Former Provincial Secretary and Convener  
Education Committee, United Farm Women.

One night at a theatre some scenery took fire and the smell of burning alarmed the audience. A panic seemed imminent, when a comedian appeared on the stage.

"Ladies and gentlemen," he said, "compose yourselves. There is no danger."

The audience did not seem reassured.

"Ladies and gentlemen," continued the comedian, rising to the occasion, "confound it all: do you think if there was any danger I'd be here?"

The panic collapsed.—Spokane Spokesman-Review.

"You go to your druggist," said the doctor to his patient, "and ask him for some iodhydrargrate of iodine of potassium, some ankydroglucochloral and some dioxymidoarseno-benzol and I should not be surprised if with those we shall be able to triumph over your loss of memory."

Pugilist: I'd rather not take gas.

Dentist: I daresay! But I won't risk attending you without.

On and after July 1, the offices of the A.T.A., Magazine, and A.T.A. Bureau of Education will be in the Imperial Bank Building, corner of Jasper and 100th Street, Edmonton.



## *The Bureau Gives Service!*

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"The A.T.A. Bureau of Education,— I should like to express my appreciation of your services during this term. The courses I have studied have been exceptionally clear and well explained. Any question that I have asked in connection with the lessons has been promptly answered, and I feel perfectly certain that anyone wishing to take a correspondence course in school work could not do better than take your tuition. For myself it has

been a pleasure as well as a benefit."

"The A.T.A. lessons are well planned. Anyone who has applied himself systematically to the courses should have little cause to worry over examination results. The A.T.A. Correspondence School has accomplished a great deal in its first year. If it does as much in succeeding years, it has a prosperous future in store for it."

## JOHNSTON'S MAPS HAVE NO EQUALS

**JOHNSTON'S MAPS** are invariably selected where quality is considered. They may cost a little more than inferior productions but are well worth the difference because their absolute accuracy, beautiful coloring, remarkable clearness and constant revision place them far ahead of all other makes.

Furthermore, Johnston's Maps are lithographed (not printed) in fast oil colors that positively will not fade on exposure to light.

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## Executive Meetings

The Executive of the Provincial Alliance met at Calgary May 31 at the Public Library building, and three sessions were held the following day in the St. Regis Hotel. All the members of the Executive were present, although Mr. McCrea was compelled to journey home on the Saturday evening.

The principal business of the meeting was to deal with the resolutions passed at the last Annual General Meeting at Easter, with respect to amendments to the Constitution and the centralization of all the activities of the Alliance under one head and in one central office. With the exception of matters arising out of the Law Committee's work and a few details with respect to agents in the field for the Alliance and the A.T.A. Bureau of Education, the whole of the five sessions of the meeting were devoted to dealing with the reports of the Finance, Constitution and Law Committees.

These Committees were appointed at the previous meeting of the Executive, held after the Annual General Meeting on April 25, and are composed as follows:

Constitution Committee: H. L. Humphreys, Chairman; J. E. Somerville.

Finance Committee: H. L. Humphreys, Chairman; J. E. Somerville, Jas. McCrea.

Law Committee: S. R. Tompkins, Chairman; T. Parker, C. Riley.

The following are the main items of the Constitution Committee's report:

1. The resolution passed unanimously by the recent Annual General Meeting calls for the amalgamation of all Departments of the Alliance and subsidiary organizations, placing them all under the complete control of the Executive, as such, and the appointment of a General Manager as a whole.

2. With this resolution in view, your Committee have examined closely the terms of incorporation of the parent Alliance, and of the A.T.A. Publishing Co., Ltd., which covers the operations of the Bureau.

3. In face of certain aspects of the position and likely attendant difficulties, should proposals be made and carried into effect in agreement with the letter and spirit of the Annual General Meeting resolution, above referred to, the proposed amalgamation of the Alliance and affiliated activities under one general manager appears at present inadvisable.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT

This Committee reported the holding of several lengthy sessions, including one whole day, in (a) close examination of current methods and details of accounting, details of varied arrangements affecting such with respect to the A.T.A., the A.T.A. Magazine and the A.T.A. Bureau; (c) consideration and decision upon the recommendations embodied in this report, arising from the duties with which the Committee were charged.

In order to ensure clear understanding by every member of the Executive, the Committee had thought it advisable to submit explanations received of certain items in the Financial Statement of the A.T.A. and the A.T.A. Magazine. The Committee made a recommendation unhesitatingly that immediate steps be taken to obtain a central suite of offices, in order that the matter of simplifying the general administration and

accountancy work of the different departments.

A resolution was passed by the Executive to authorize this recommendation to be put into effect without delay.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the Executive decided to have monthly meetings of the Finance Committee, and at such meetings the General Secretary-Treasurer and the Director of the Bureau be requested to submit:

1. A statement of bank balances at date.
2. All accounts due for payment.
3. Details of necessary operating and organizing expenses for the ensuing month.

The Executive also made provision for carrying the following recommendations of this Committee into effect:

1. The transference of all Alliance, Magazine and Bureau accounts to one chartered bank, with a view to facilitating the establishment of a line of credit.

2. The counter signature of a member of the Finance Committee, together with that of the General Secretary-Treasurer, on all cheques issued by the Alliance, Magazine and Bureau.

3. The establishment of an Impress Account for the General Secretary-Treasurer, another for the Director of the Bureau, and the banking of all moneys of the different departments to be the duty of the General Secretary-Treasurer.

The retention of Mr. Barnett as General Secretary-Treasurer was also recommended, together with detailed plans as to the scope of his duties. It was also recommended that Mr. Newland continue as Editor of the A.T.A. Magazine, and, subject to the Executive's decision as to general policy and forms of teachers' service through the publication, the Editor shall determine literary matter for insertion in the Magazine. Mr. Newland will continue as Director of the A.T.A. Bureau of Education.

The Executive, on the Finance Committee's recommendation, resolved that the policy be officially established of keeping a complete Inventory Register of all property of the Alliance and its subordinate organizations, showing dates and costs of purchase and annual depreciation entries.

The Law Committee reported on several "cases" under review. Several were finally disposed of, others referred back pending developments; and legal action in defence of different members in difficulty was in several other cases definitely endorsed or authorized.

The matter of future policy of the A.T.A. Magazine was left over for consideration at the July meeting of the Executive.

The President, Past President and General Secretary-Treasurer were appointed delegates to the Annual Convention of the Canadian Teachers' Federation at Victoria, next August.

The Executive resolved that the whole Executive make arrangements to present to the Minister of Education certain resolutions passed at the last Annual General Meeting.

Miss Mary R. Crawford was continued as Alliance representative on the University Matriculation and High Schools Examinations Board.

The question of providing teachers and School Boards with respect to placing teachers without infringing the Alberta Statute was considered by the Executive, but laid over for consideration at the next meeting.

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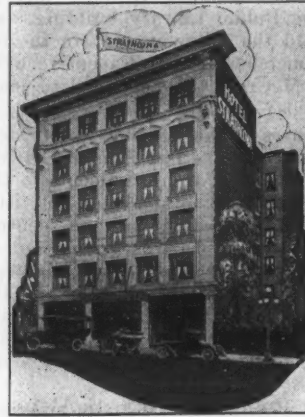
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## Commercialism and Professionalism

H. R. LEAVER

For some few years the teachers in the Province of Alberta have been endeavoring to raise their status in the eyes of the general public, to that degree of recognition which on the one hand will demand respect and on the other hand will attract regard. This double virtue was thought possible through the medium of an Alliance which, while exacting respect for teachers' rights, would develop a general esteem from the public through its professional activities. So great an advance was made in membership due to the exercise of such principles that Alberta was considered the aggressive province of the Dominion.

This phenomenal growth of the Alliance, however, was regarded with some apprehension as being characteristic of weakness rather than strength, and in order to supply stronger bonds within the teaching body a Bureau of Education was promoted. Early discussions on the Bureau revealed to the ordinary member of the Alliance that the objects of such an institution were:

(a) To gather material from educational centres throughout the world and distribute it to the country districts.

(b) To supply the rural members with lesson material, aids in method, etc., etc.

The original plan was for the city teacher to supply his information gratis, the work being so distributed as to bring no grievous burden upon any one member. The effect of such a scheme would be to bind the teaching body of the Province professionally, to establish a spirit of fellowship between rural and city districts, and to create a respect from ruling authorities and kindred professions such that no one could point the finger of scorn at teachers.

The Bureau was mooted at a time most opportune. The activities of the Alliance had created no small feeling of irritation throughout the province. Authorities saw that teachers' demands were unprecedented, especially as they took the form of revised salary schedules and juster contracts. The opinion in general was that the teachers were a money-grabbing set of people launched on a scheme of wholesale coercion. While such adverse comment was rampant, a Bureau as outlined above would have justified the teachers in their material demands, would have demonstrated the fact to the province that the teachers were professional, and would have raised their reputation to that level enjoyed by like associations.

Unhappily the ideals of a small minority have become lost in the backwash of a Correspondence College. Instructors write courses and are paid for them; members invest funds and receive dividends; rural teachers receive lesson-aids and pay for them; salesmen range the province for prospective buyers and the whole fraternal organization hereto called an Alliance is fairly on the way to become a factory for grinding out fact lore, and an institution for manufacturing the daily lesson in tablet form.

There are certain principles which Britishers in time past have been pleased to regard as fundamentally essential to the progress of good, honest government. One is that no official shall receive monetary benefit from financial ventures over which he has control. The last election of officers the Alberta Provincial Executive has placed in office a President and a geogra-

phical representative, who write courses for the Alliance Correspondence College and receive money for them. Where questions of moment arise between the Alliance and the Bureau the decision of such men must, without the shadow of doubt, be governed by the interests of the Bureau rather than by those of the Alliance. Where it is a question of dividends and profit, the most stable man, solid in the observance of right practice, and rigidly zealous in matters of principle, could not but waver.

One other aspect of the situation, and that a most serious one, is that the Alliance is bound by resolution of delegates to the Annual General Meeting, held in Calgary last Easter, to support financially the endeavors of the Bureau. This means that the fees of memberships paid into the Alliance for the specific purpose of protection and security may possibly be diverted into business channels dependent upon the ebb and flow of markets, and liable to loss from mismanagement. At a time when the Alliance should be building up a fund sufficient to compel authorities to take notice that no trifling with salary schedules, no interference with contracts, and no gross acts of injustice will be tolerated, the Alliance is fritting away its reserve energy in business propositions, doubtful, as regards financial success, useless as regards educational fraternity, and damnable as regards professional principle. It is said that the Fisher Bill in the Old Country was made possible only by the reserve funds of the National Union of Teachers.

When the Bureau was first suggested, one objection was raised, that it would work against the prestige of the Alliance, in that a commercial concern dependent upon profits would tend to lower professional ideals. This objection is fast becoming justified. No organization can be at once professional and commercial in its outlook. The one characteristic demands adherence to ideals, the other demands attention to dividends; the one secures service free and wholeheartedly, the other hires labor at a given wage. In the Alliance the professional ideal has been thrust out from its position of prominence in the Provincial Executive and now mourns its degradation in the less influential circles. There is but one solution to ameliorate the divergent interests of the Alliance as at present constituted. The Bureau must be separated entirely from the activities of the parent organization. If there is any demand for teacher aids, or for educational material of any kind, it must either be supplied gratis by the Alliance, or those wishing to receive pay must form themselves into an association distinct and separate from that which wishes to characterize its efforts by wholesome conduct, elevated ideals and professional integrity.

"But why did you leave your last place?" the housekeeper asked of the new would-be cook.

"To tell the truth, mum, I just couldn't stand the way the mister and missus used to quarrel, mum."

"Dear me, do you mean to say that they actually used to quarrel?"

"Yis, mum, all the time. When it wasn't me an' him, it was me and her."

"What is the surest cure for love at first sight?"  
"Second sight."—Stanford Chaparral.

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## Analerta

### STAND BACK OF THE TEACHER

"I never kicked about my teacher to my parents. If I had complained about getting a licking, the chances were I'd get another at home."

"No teacher 'dast' lick me. My pa and ma says there ain't no teacher got no right to lick me."

The first sentence has been heard from more than one man. The second from more than one boy. The two stand for two kinds of homes, two kind of parents.

The boy who knows that his parents will not take his part against his teacher; who knows that he will not be coddled if he complains about the "cruelty" and "tryanny" of the classroom, is much more likely to study his lessons and benefit from the discipline of the school.

The boy who knows that his parents will take his side; who knows that he can say mean things about the teacher without being reprimanded at home; who knows that if he "kicks" enough his dear parents will take him out of "that terrible school" and send him to another, where the teacher is not so "cruel"—such a boy is that pathetic and disagreeable thing, a spoiled child, and can scarcely escape growing into a selfish, arrogant man who knows no law but his own desires.

It may be that occasionally a teacher is unjust. It may be that Johnny deserves only nine of the ten "lickings" he gets. But his injury done him (if injury it can be called) is as nothing compared with the harm which is done him when he is permitted or even encouraged to rebel against authority in the school. The father or mother who permits or helps a child to flaunt the authority of the teacher is undermining the authority of the home (if such a thing ever existed in such a home) and is preparing the boy to flaunt both civil and moral authority when he grows up.

—*Catholic Herald*, Milwaukee.

### CONTROL OF SCHOOLS

The agitation which was well under way in various cities of the province to take the administration of the schools from the School Boards and place it under the City Council, has not got very far, and seems to have died away as it should. The Department of Education gave no encouragement to the plan, and possibly that is why it has met the present fate.

That which was most objectionable in the plan was the motive which inspired it. Certain people wanted the control of education taken from the School Boards and placed under the control of the Council for one reason, and one reason only, and that was to reduce the cost of education, whatever might be the result. That could be done better, it was argued, by a City Council which did not come near to the administration of the schools than it could be done by a School Board, however the Board might be composed.

In many cities in the United States, the schools are administered by City Councils or by Boards which are dependent upon city administration. The American City, an ably edited municipal magazine, has recently made thorough investigation of the result. Its conclusion is that the school expenditure is no less under cities than under the administration of School Boards. The wages of teachers, according to the result of the investigation, are higher under direct city control, but there are certain other economies in adminis-

tration that about balance the expenditure.

"If the Board of Education is given independence of municipal control of its annual budget," says the American City, "it seems fair to predict that less bonded indebtedness will be incurred, that more adequate school buildings and playgrounds will be provided, that more children will remain in the school after the age of compulsory attendance has been passed, and that the schools will be more successful in meeting economic emergencies."

The conclusion is as follows: "Specialists in educational administration agree that the most efficient boards of education are made up of a small number of members, each of whom is elected from the city at large on a non-partisan ballot for a comparatively long term." Judged by that plan, our system of administration seems to be about ideal.—*Calgary Albertan*.

### LOSSIEMOUTH'S TRIBUTE

Under the joint auspices of Lossiemouth Town and Parish Councils, a public bonfire in celebration of the advent to the Premiership of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, a native, and still a householder of the town, was lit on the Coulard Hill on Friday night by Provost Anderson, who is a prominent local Unionist.

Before lighting the pile, which was of huge dimensions, and included in its composition old boats, herring barrels, and masts, and bore at top a white cock representing the Cock of the North, Provost Anderson said they were gathered to honor a man brought up amongst them in a humble home, where his mother, and his grandmother had earned a livelihood by their own industry. All honor was due to their memory for the many sacrifices they made for his education. They

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were proud to think that one of their own sons, had by dint of perseverance attained the highest honor in British politics, and they hoped that the bonfire would consume all the bad luck in the path of their muchesteemed townsman.

When the bonfire was well alight, a procession was formed, and an effigy representing a prominent official of Moray Golf Club, which expelled Mr. MacDonald during the war for his pacifist speeches, was carried through beflagged streets, passing en route the club house—practically the only building of any size that displayed no flag.—*Glasgow Weekly Herald*.

## Success

A Calgary Normal Student.

One short year ago our High School days were nearly gone; now, our professional course has but a few more days to run. When we pass, perhaps for the last time, through the portals of the institution to which we have been proud to belong, we can truly say that we are turning a new page in the chronicles of our lives. A fair white page it will be, and whatever the mistakes of the past, it behooves us to take heed lest one blot or stain should besmirch the new record.

True, there are errors in all records, save that of the one Great Teacher; nor can we all be endowed with the genius of a superman; yet where is he who is not master of the ability to do some one thing just a little better than his neighbor? So however small our gift, let us seek to improve and direct that gift toward the success of our undertaking. The measure of that success depends upon but one thing—ourselves, our attitude toward work. If we strive always with only the material reward in view, will our success be worthy of commendation? Rather, to be truly successful, we must love our work, for without interest it becomes drudgery, a thing sordid and aimless, blighting the growth of character.

Let us, then, begin by seeking a worthy goal, aiming ever to better our efforts and attainments. True, failures and disappointments must come, yet how much better to have tried and failed than never to have tried at all." Or one difficulty overcome, what strength is gained for a still greater victory! Then, that our labors may be rewarded with true success, may we pledge ourselves to loving service and high ideals, looking ever for our example to the one Who deemed it not too great a sacrifice to lay down His life for His fellow man.

The taxi-driver turned at the end of the second hour and eyed his client suspiciously.

"Are you taking me by the hour or by the day?" he asked.

"By the year," responded the haggard passenger. "I'm looking for a house to let!"

Beggar: Kind sir, will ye give me a dime for a bed?"

Student (cautiously): Let's see the bed first.

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## Editorial

### TEACHERS' REGISTRATION COUNCIL

The idea of a Teachers' Registration Council for Canada is gaining headway. Such a council would be the first step towards incorporation of the Canadian teaching profession, the only procedure which, in the opinion of many teachers, offers the slightest hope of making teaching a real profession.

In this respect the following notice, clipped from a recent issue of the *Schoolmaster*, is of interest:

### TEACHERS' REGISTRATION COUNCIL

Representative of the Teaching Profession.

(Constituted by Order-in-Council, 29th February, 1912.)

The Teachers' Registration Council was established by Act of Parliament as a Professional Body representative of all branches of teaching, and charged with the duty of forming and maintaining an Official Register of Teachers, containing the names of those who had been admitted to Registration as qualified in accordance with the Conditions framed by the Council, and in force for the time being.

The Council has received applications from 74,900 teachers, of whom 72,049 have been admitted to Registration. It has established standards of attainment and of professional training in connection with the teaching of such special subjects as music, art, physical training, handwork and domestic science.

It has laid down the principle that teaching is a form of professional work which should be undertaken in a responsible capacity by those only who possess adequate knowledge and have received training in teaching. More recently the Council has adopted a progressive scheme by which young people who are definitely in preparation to become teachers may be admitted to the List of Associate Teachers. When they have fulfilled the Conditions in regard to Attainments and Training in Teaching they may be admitted to the List of Provisionally Registered Teachers, and, following this, a period of satisfactory teaching experience will enable them to apply for admission to the Official List of Registered Teachers, and thereby gain credentials similar to those which are held by members of other learned professions.

The aim of the Council is to establish the work of teachers on a professional basis, with standards of qualification and efficiency which are established and maintained by the profession itself.

All teachers who are not yet associated with the Council should write without delay to the Secretary, Teachers' Registration Council, 47 Bedford Square, London, W.C. 1.

### SLOSH

Not the least of the strong arguments supporting an embargo on the export of Canadian pulpwood is to be seen in the appalling volume of Canadian pulp which is fed into American printing presses for Sunday newsprint. It were far, far better that our timber stands should remain intact, or for that matter be

fire-swept, than that they should be snatched into the greedy maw of the Hearst, Curtis and Munsey syndicates, to be spewed out again in blatant, bizarre-colored, freak-stunted, stodgy Sunday editions, reeking with the most undeniable "slosh." "It is one of the just claims of a classical training," remarked the renowned Dr. Adams to us recently, "that it keeps a man from writing the unspeakable 'slosh' which fills our modern newspapers." Yes, that's it—"slosh."

But what is "slosh"? you expostulate. Well, it's not "slush," that's obvious. Nor is it "bunk," either. "Bunk" has a certain amount of vigor, and is usually well written. Its purpose is to beguile by a specious show of logic and to instil a subtle propaganda. "Slosh," however, has vigor neither of thought nor of style. It is flaccid and oozy, as the following splendid example will show. This is taken from a recent issue of the *Canadian Magazine*, and was written by the Professor of English in one of our best-known Canadian Universities:—

Three hundred years ago, November, 1623, there came from the press the first collected edition of the plays of Shakespeare, seven years after the dramatist's death. This *great* volume has been growing in fame and influence ever since, and constitutes the *greatest* literary monument in the world, as it marks the *greatest* publishing event in the history of literature. Its *great* intrinsic value makes it the most precious possession of the English-speaking race, and the *greatest* contribution of any race to literature. The circumstances of its publication, too, give it a unique interest, and the tercentenary of this year has stimulated a study of every phase of the *great* book. The tercentenary of the dramatist's death in April, 1916, on account of the war, passed without much notice, but this year the tercentenary of his living book is being duly celebrated.

This *great* volume, known as the First Folio, contained all the plays of Shakespeare except "Pericles", of which, it is agreed, he was only part author.

#### THE SCARBOROUGH CONFERENCE OF THE N.U.T.

The 111,000 members of the National Union of Teachers met in conference at Scarborough, England, during Easter week. About 1,800 delegates were present.

The outstanding features of the Conference were a presentation to the retiring Secretary, Sir James Yoxall, the appointment of the new Secretary, Capt. W. F. Galdstone, and the address of the Rt. Hon. C. P. Trevelyan, President of the Board of Education and Minister of Education. This was the first time the annual Conference of the N.U.T. was ever addressed by a Minister of Education, and the Minister's address bespeaks a very friendly attitude towards Britain's

Labor Government on the part of the British teachers' organization.

The N.U.T., we must remember, has been in existence about fifty years. It has achieved a great deal for British teachers, especially through the efforts of its "persistent" and untiring Secretary, Sir James Yoxall, and also by means of its strong corps or Parliamentary representatives. In perusing the report of proceedings, however, we note the same "hardy perennials" cropping up in the discussions and resolutions. The official organ, the *Schoolmaster*, is apparently not all that it should or could be. Some members want a weekly issue of material suitable for classroom use. (Boy, page the A.T.A.) Then, too, H. M. Inspectors do not satisfy the teaching body, particularly in regard to the system of grade by letters, based on short visits and subjective judgments. There is the same insecurity of tenure, and the same indifference of the public to the welfare of teachers. The new Minister gives notice that he will aim to raise the status of teaching by raising the qualifications and strengthening the training courses. In effect, he wants to make teaching a real profession. One cannot read through this report without realizing again and again that, after all, the status of teaching is economically determined. Given the same economic conditions, the status of teaching is the same the world over. That is why a great many of the efforts, otherwise most praiseworthy, of teachers' organizations resemble nothing more than they do the attempt to lift oneself by the boot-tops.

The financial statement is interesting. The annual fee, we note, is £2 2s—about \$10. The average fee paid by A.T.A. members is less than \$7. The Union has an invested surplus of £273,000, which is this year to be raised to £304,000. This brings an income of £11,560 annually. Very good—but the Union is fifty years old. The annual income from 111,000 members was last year £206,000, and of this total expenditure was £137,700.

From this it appears that we are doing very well in Alberta. If we wish to build up a large surplus, we shall require a higher average fee.

Below we clip some of the important pronouncements from the report of the proceedings:—

"We have not lost faith in the power of intelligence and goodwill to promote human welfare; in the belief that the best and most lasting benefit that education can confer on mankind is to train and encourage the full use of the best human qualities; in the steady resolve that men, women and children should be educated because they are human beings with an immense potential capacity for following the path of wisdom, and an actual and unquenchable desire for life and all that the word connotes."

—President Conway's Inaugural Address.

"The advantages of a collective agreement covering all England and Wales would be to you immeasurable. It would be far better to have a tolerable settlement all over the country than an ideal

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settlement which affected only some parts of it."

—*Rt. Hon. C. P. Trevelyan, President of the Board of Education and Minister of Education.*

"They were not going to be satisfied with vocational trade schools. The only vocational schools that would satisfy were those that regarded life as the vocation. An investigation into the effects of machine production in America showed that not only was machinery and factory production monotonous, and not only did it demand dullness, but it created dullness, and if they were going to escape from that they had to get outside the factory walls into the walls of the school. The great social dynamic of modern times was the school, and if the nation was going to have true economy and a correct sense of values in life, realizing that laughter in childhood and good health were of true economic value, then it had got to say, 'We will have a broad system of free, full secondary education for all the children of the workers of this country with full maintenance grants.'"

—*Mr. Cove, M.P.*

"Vital as is the question of salaries to you, vital as is the question of the standard of life, I tell you frankly that I am more interested in another thing, and that is the status of the teachers and the quality. If the status is established, and if the qualities are high, other things will be added.

—*Rt. Hon. C. P. Trevelyan, Minister of Education.*

Unfortunately, education is still standing, Lazarus-like, outside the gate! In the important interests that sway the nation education is still of secondary importance; and yet it is known to every intelligent member of the community, from the rulers of the State, the captains of industry, down to plain John Citizen, that, as H. G. Wells says, "the whole measure of progress in a generation is the measure in which children improve in physical and mental quality, in social co-ordination, in opportunity, upon their parents." All struggling parents desire that their children shall have a better start in life than they had; shall escape the miseries, the hardships, the trials that they underwent. Upon this sound instinct in parents all progress is built. A generous education is no longer a luxury; it is a prime necessity in the ever-increasing complexity of civilization. Therefore, it cannot be a negligible quantity in national affairs if the desire of the nation is for intellectual, moral and social betterment. What we sow in one generation we reap in the next; and if it were possible to present in cold statistics the butchery of talent that ensues from lack of educational provision and opportunity, it would astound and alarm the nation.

—*President Conway.*

#### FREE DISTRIBUTION OF "THE SCHOOLMASTER"

What was the object of the Executive in asking Conference to sanction the free issue of the *Schoolmaster* to the members of the Union? asked Mr. Bentiff. He supposed that they would agree that it was necessary, if the members of the Union were to be well informed as to the work done by their Union, that they should take in the Organ of the Union in which the information is recorded. He was sorry to say that it was not every member of the N.U.T. who purchased a copy of the *Schoolmaster*. (Cries of "Shame!" "Why?" and "Be-

cause it is 3d.") They were looking to the *Schoolmaster* for something which they should be prepared to pay for in another publication. They wanted included in the *Schoolmaster* articles such as they would get in a sixpenny paper like the *Spectator* or some similar publication. A section desired what was issued in a weekly publication for the information which they found it necessary to give in the class-room of their school. (Laughter.) And so the *Schoolmaster*, being an educational newspaper, the Organ of the N.U.T., did not furnish that help to the teacher. They had to think seriously of the effect upon the membership of the Union through ignorance of what the Executive was doing, he added. They believed that every member of the Union, whether he needed it or not, should have by him the means to supply himself with information of what the Executive is doing. If they could only send out the paper to every member of the Union they were convinced that in the pages of the *Schoolmaster* there would be information which would be useful to their members. They also knew there would be an immense saving in the printing of circulars effected in Union management. Further, the *Schoolmaster* would be able to boast of a circulation of more than 100,000 copies per week, and that in itself would "talk" when they were seeking for advertisements. If Conference were willing—if it was found possible to reduce the subscription, which would also include a sufficient sum to send a free copy each week of the Organ of the teaching profession—they would be doing a very wise thing. If they could only secure and know that every member of the teaching profession who was a member of the Union would have in his possession the means of satisfying his curiosity as to the doings of his Union, then it would not be possible for members to attend local associations and say, "I did not know of this." They would be astounded how better-informed men and women they would be when they read the *Schoolmaster* weekly than if they failed to read it at all.

—*W. D. Bentiff, J.P.*

The war shook the nation to its foundations. Institutions, organizations, systems, all have come under question. The very groundwork of society, one time substantial under our feet, rocks under criticism. We are living under unstable conditions. Social needs, aspirations and demands multiply, and it requires steady heads and steady nerves to steer clear of disaster. The growing and inevitable complexity of civilization is demanding more and more from every citizen a higher plane of intelligence, an extended moral outlook and a courageous acceptance of new standards of civic and social responsibilities. Without readjustments to new circumstances and conditions failure is inevitable.

—*President Conway.*

Little Jimmy—"That was good beef we had for dinner, mamma. Where did you get it?"

Mamma—"That wasn't beef, my son. It was roast pork."

Little Jimmy—"Then why didn't you tell me before? You know I don't like pork."

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## John Ruskin--Esthetics and Social Reform

C. LIONEL GIBBS

This is not a dogmatic age. Like a grey question mark the shadow of relativity has projected itself into philosophy and art. Kipling sensed it when he tells us in his "Neolithic Man" that "there are nine and sixty ways of constructing tribal lays and every single one of them is right."

I feel almost guilty of a discordant note in having chosen for my subject so controversial and dogmatic a personality as John Ruskin; the more so that Ruskin's teaching runs counter to nearly all the facts and philosophies of our modern life, and is white-hot with condemnation of some of our most cherished practices. We have recently had in Edmonton a lady, Miss Edith Warren, who spoke to us of Ruskin from the point of view of a disciple, of one whose career had been largely consecrated to following in the artistic footsteps of the master, and to tending those lamps of memory by whose glow the glory of the great Apostle of Beauty might remain vivid to us.

Of all the Ruskin Societies that were formed in the same spirit, not many have survived. It is difficult for us today to understand the almost religious fervour that drew people to Ruskin. Shopkeeping and science have driven the spiritual out of art, and art out of religion. We are frankly scornful of the exaltation of the froth and foam that capped the great wave of romanticism, of the illusions that sparkled on it, and of the sentimentality that rippled along its crest. It is for all these reasons that I am fearful of speaking to you about Ruskin, the arch-romanticist, the arch-weaver of Utopias.

The man with an openly expressed mission in life has to be extremely convincing and eloquent. There is nothing people dislike more than to be preached to (except in church, of course). They are like children in this respect.

If ever a man thought he had a mission and said so, it was Ruskin. He was just bristling with missions, esthetic and social. He looked at nature and all created things with such passionate interest and tireless wonder that mountain and lake, sky and sea, seemed to be calling to his poet soul to be their interpreter. He felt, and he was most probably right, that people were missing the infinite beauties of this world of ours; that they had eyes, but saw not, and ears that were deaf to the subtle melody of the countryside. This then was his first mission in life: to teach people to see, to be an interpreter of nature; and in this he achieved conspicuous success.

The wonderful word paintings of Ruskin scattered his disciples broadcast over the beauty spots of England and Scotland, Italy and Switzerland. He gave them canons and standards of taste that were a new and unsuspected power of vision to them, so that they indeed saw with their eyes and understood with their hearts the wonderful works of God.

His second mission was to interpret the wonderful works of man. People had been mildly and romantically attracted by ruined abbeys and hoary castle keeps. The Waverley novels had cast a kind of sentimental glamour over them. But Ruskin made a mission of architecture. To him it was the supreme and co-ordinating art—the one most expressive of time and race

and place. Students saw in him a kind of High Priest who sent them out with pencil and sketch block to worship at his Gothic shrines. The general public became so obsessed with the importance of architecture that even the big daily papers gave up columns to what was known as the Battle of the Styles. The Prime Minister of England actually joined in a protest to the Italian Government against the restoration of St. Mark's, Venice.

And then his last great mission, the one to which he consecrated all his strength and wealth and power, was his Social mission. If faith really could remove mountains or clarify eloquence overturn the walls of prejudice, then this mission, too, would have won success. It did indeed throw out some green shoots. Some of its ideals have triumphed, some of its appeals have been heard, but in the main it flickered out in the darkness and silence of his closing years.

The story of Ruskin is really a story of knight-errantry. Sometimes he is tilting at windmills and sometimes at real snorting dragons; but he is always tilting at something. People said he was out of date. Of course he was. Who would go questing for Holy Graals nowadays? What faith was there in his day that would send the people singing down every road in the wake of a crusading lord?—or make a man spend hours and days in contemplation of the haloed saints of Fra Angelico? Who but Ruskin would have got the Oxford undergraduates out of bed at 6 o'clock to build roads at Hinksey?

Ruskin was out of date. He was out of key. His nature was attuned to quite other harmonies than those of the 19th century—and for that reason, any properly focussed consideration of him is bound to start with a survey of the century in which his body moved, however far back his spirit may have tarried.

The 19th century is not easy to describe. You, who are trained historians, may be able to make a well-fitting and logical narrative of it. The first impression I get is of incoherence, of a swirling to and fro of unrelated forms, of a transition twilight between the old certainties and all kinds of unverified hypotheses.

Under the stress of revolution and war the banks have given way. Humanity seems to be fretting out new channels amidst strange and monstrous growths, and bearing down from its higher reaches a jamming and jarring debris of old faiths and uprooted institutions. A sinister flood, the waste of it turbid with the upheaval of all kinds of ooze from its ancient bed—and over it all a pall of infidelity and materialism, lurid with unconsecrated wealth and rumbling with war and clash of classes. And yet when you look closer you perceive amidst all this confusion many noble and devoted men, striving to bring order and light and to give to a rather distracted humanity new possibilities of happiness and a living ideal. And amongst these men no figure seems to me more noble or more devoted than that of Ruskin.

He was no mere art critic or social writer. He was at once a prophet and an apostle in the light of whose flaming eloquence men saw again the pleasant fields of innocence and faith through which their fathers had once passed, and glimpsed a new city, Utopian

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Lac Beauvert, and read the mysteries mirrored therein—to trail the mountain stream and discover the inevitable fairy waterfall.

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if you like, but whose walls were iridescent with hope.

Whatever we hold of the dignity of labour and the consecration of leisure to high aims has received a lasting inspiration from his writings. Whatever impulse moves us to the cult of nature and the conservation of natural loveliness has been quickened and warmed by his concept of a daily life that was to be lived amidst the beauties of nature, art and architecture.

For all these things we can forgive much that is over-dogmatic and intolerant in his teaching, and it is by the measure of what these things mean to us that his work must be weighed.

As suggested in the sub-title of this paper, Ruskin's work divides itself under two great heads. In a short paper it would be impossible to do justice to the multifarious matters on which he wrote. Any consideration of these would scatter the interest which I wish to concentrate on his essential originality in linking up such apparently unrelated subjects.

It may be said that the first part of his literary life was devoted to writing books on art and beauty, into which he wove lessons on social, moral and religious problems. The second part deals with society and ethics, in which the practical teaching is filled with judgments about the beautiful in nature and art. His central work on art is "Modern Painters," the first volume written when he was twenty, and signed simply "An Oxford Graduate."

It owed its origin to the attacks that had been made on Turner's paintings, and was a fervid and unqualified defense of Turner's methods and a compelling affirmation of his genius as the greatest landscape painter of all times. Whatever we may now think of the merits of this controversy, the outstanding and astonishing thing is the audacity of this young unknown champion riding into the lists against all comers with a superb assurance that was only equalled by the technical grasp of his subject, the far-reaching nature of the principles propounded, and the splendour of language and imagery in which these were framed. It was an epoch-making book for the status of art and artists in England.

It not only silenced the critics and vindicated Turner, but, together with the succeeding volumes, conferred upon its author a kind of papal authority to loose and to bind in matters of art criticism. In the years that followed, Ruskin made and unmade reputations until even the painters themselves came to resent the domination of this amateur, but, nevertheless, more and more conformed their work to his gospel. The decisive turn in the history of Pre-Raphaelitism was the intervention of Ruskin at a moment when the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood was being laughed into starvation and discouragement. As with Turner, he turned the scale of public opinion in their favor by convincing even the scoffers that while the name Pre-Raphaelite might be unfortunate, the protest of their work against the formalism of the classical school was timely and justified.

It was a central idea with Ruskin that in the history of art, Raphael was the culmination of what he calls the Christian or Mediaeval schools of the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries (whom we should call Primitives), and that from him Modernism or Pagan art derives in what is usually called the Renaissance School. As in all his writings, the ultimate classification turned upon religion. The history of art constituted a trinity of ages: the classical age, the middle age, the modern age. Classicism began where civilization began—with pagan faith. Mediaevalism be-

gan and continued wherever civilization began and continued to confess Christ. And modernism began and continues wherever civilization began and continues to deny Christ. The essence of Ruskin's art criticism is the demand for the study and truthful representation of nature by all artists, coupled with a call for pictures to teach moral and spiritual truths as a *sine qua non* to their being considered great art. Truth was to be the first object and beauty only the second.

This does not constitute, as might be supposed, a plea for realism; it even admits of impressionism, not of an intuitive kind but, as with Turner, based upon nature study. I have insisted on these two requirements of nature and religion because they are the key and leit-motif of all Ruskin's work. What he was at twenty in art criticism that he continued to be to the end of his days, whether writing on architecture, education, political economy or Greek myths. There was woven into the very warp and woof of him this passionate love of nature and this profound religious bias. It is not my intention to labor biographical details, but it is interesting, in view of the above, to trace the parental influences that enter into his make-up.

From his father, a well-to-do Sherry merchant, he got his appreciation of art and beauty, his love of nature and the delight in travel which never left him. An only son, his childhood was made memorable to him by frequent journeys through the most lovely scenery of England and Scotland; leisurely carriage drives by high-road and by-road, in which the enlightened enthusiasm of his father served as interpreter to the wonder-book of nature and established an almost fraternal link of common interest in the loveliness of lakes, mountains and skies and the enjoyment of pictures and buildings. It was on these drives and in the lonely meditations of a secluded life, with few distractions of any kind and less companionship, that the habits of observation and analysis were developed that made possible the miracle of "Modern Painters" by a boy scarcely out of college.

From his mother he got his religious outlook and profound spirit of reverence. He was literally brought up on the Bible. His mother read and expounded it to him, from cover to cover, over and over again. He learnt a great portion of it by heart. His biographer tells us that nearly all through his life he would study a few verses every morning before breakfast, discussing with himself the force and meaning of every word. His mother was essentially a Bible Christian, narrow, evangelical, a stickler for Sabbath observance, and critical of the slightest lapse from the straight path of duty and discipline.

It is true that in later years Ruskin's religious outlook widened and softened, including a short lapse into questioning and religious doubt—but his mother's influence was an enduring and compelling one. The Bible is the one indispensable hand-book to any close study of his work. It colored alike his thought and his style; it is engrained in the texture of almost every piece from his pen.

His father taught him to use his eyes and his mother his soul. His eyes were very literally the windows of his soul, and every sunbeam and passing shadow caught a spiritual reflection. He could not look upon a beautiful landscape or work of art without religious emotion. He could not contemplate the misery of the oppressed or the triumph of the wicked without religious indignation. It was no pose, this mingling of ethics with art and sociology. To his sensitive soul physical, spiritual and social ugliness were all one. His writings on social reform were the ransom of his

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love of pictures and stones and mosses. "I cannot," he said in effect on various occasions; "I simply cannot paint nor read nor look at minerals or anything else I like because of the misery I know of."

The other great book of this first period, the esthetic period, is "The Stones of Venice," written out of sheer romanticist enthusiasm for picturesque buildings, and incidentally (this, as well as the beautiful "Seven Lamps of Architecture"), as a frame and background for those social ideals and moral teachings which were more and more taking possession of him. If the art critics had cried out against this amateur for daring to open the eyes of the public to nature and art, and by doing so had diminished the respect and need of their mediatory offices as an art priesthood;—so now, from behind their text-books and drawing-boards, did the architects shower abuse on this unqualified intruder who dared to ridicule their parallels of the orders, their Palladian compositions and all the other paraphernalia of cold-blooded copyism; who called on them to go out into the chill aisles of their cathedrals and the ruined cloisters of abbey and priory and read there in a spontaneous architectural expression the great underlying principles of architectural truth.

They were furious that he should place the ladder of simple analysis against their Chinese wall of technical jargon, so that those from without the pale might penetrate to its inner sanctuaries and perceive the néant of many of its cryptic oracles. "Architecture," he said, "is an art for all men to learn because all are concerned in it, and it is so simple that there is no excuse for not being acquainted with its primary rules any more than for ignorance of grammar and spelling, which are both of them far more difficult sciences. Far less trouble than is necessary to learn how to play chess or whist or golf tolerably—far less than a school-boy takes to win the meanest prize of the passing year—would acquaint you with all the main principles of a Gothic cathedral." All very Ruskinian, very absolute, and highly colored, but containing withal some grains of truth. We can imagine the horror of outraged dignity with which the architects, whose whole training had been in the neo-classic styles of the day, must have listened to the following hyperbolic outburst: "These pediments and stylobates and architraves never excited a single pleasurable feeling in you—never will to the end of time. They are evermore dead, lifeless and useless in art, as in poetry—and though you build as many of them as there are slates on your house roofs, you will never care for them. They will only remain to later ages as monuments to the patience and pliability with which the people of the 19th century sacrificed their feelings to fashions and their intellects to forms. But on the other hand, that strange and thrilling interest with which such words strike as are in any wise connected with Gothic architecture—as for instance Vault, Arch, Spire, Pinnacle, Battlement, Barbican, Porch, and myriads of such others, words everlastingly poetical and powerful wherever they occur—is a most true and certain index that the things themselves are delightful and will ever continue to be." It is a poet, not a practising architect, who speaks, and the architects of the day should have realized, as others have done since, that he was conferring upon their profession a prestige and endowing it with an atmosphere that only a poet could give.

Admitting that much of his teaching is hopelessly, rhapsodically wrong—that he is thinking mostly in terms of the Waverley novels rather than those of a

practical work-a-day world, that this mediaeval architecture of his must lose its essential merit if transported into an age other than that of which it was the organic, truthful, spontaneous expression; admitting all this, let us also admit that there is a function of esthetic as well as of doctrinal teaching—and that, in stirring the emotions of his readers to an interest in architecture as the one great social art, he was cultivating the soil for the artistic benefit of his successors.

In the matter of city beautification he also ploughed some useful furrows. I seem to hear him telling the good people of Edinburgh how the beauty of their city's site was no rightful subject of pride, nor the historical houses and castles that adorned it. "You did not raise the mountains nor shape the shores," he says, "and the historical houses of your Canongate and the broad battlements of your castle reflect honor upon you only through your ancestors. Before you boast of your city—before even you venture to call it yours—ought you not scrupulously to weigh the exact share you have had in adding to it or adorning it, to calculate seriously the influence upon its aspect which the work of your own hands has exercised?" What an excellent text for our Board of Trade utterances! What an interesting commentary on some aspects of the city into whose keeping Providence has given those wooded heights and shadowed ravines and the matchless sweep of the Saskatchewan here at our feet! What a stinging reproach to those who are responsible for the neglected nakedness of our Canadian National Depot site!

I have spoken earlier of Ruskin's exaltation of work. I believe it is this aspect of Gothic architecture which most appealed to him. Mediaeval architecture was an economy of design that took the workman in all his weakness and imperfection, that gave him work that permitted self-expression and inventiveness, encouraging thus such a wide development of craftsmanship that in its most perfect period it became essentially a craftsman's architecture. The decisive weakness of the Gothic revival, which Ruskin's teaching did so much to stimulate, reveals itself in this—that there no longer existed a body of craftsmanship capable of giving it life. Ruskin's hatred of machinery and modern industrialism is well known, and makes him seem bitter and pessimistic in his social writings. The basic reason for it was his belief that machinery and modern methods robbed the workman of all joy in his work, making of him a mere cogwheel or animated tool, and that the only remedy was to revive the spirit and conditions of the mediaeval period. He would not admit that there was any use in machine-made things that justified the perdition of the worker's dignity and happiness.

The immediate effect of this teaching was the launching of that Arts and Crafts Movement of which William Morris was the bright particular star, which did much to counteract the hopeless banality and vulgarity into which house furnishing and all the minor arts were sunk. What Ruskin implies is this: that the esthetics of handicraft and the esthetics of the machine are two different things, and that what is a virtue in the one is quite the opposite in the other. The key to handicraft esthetics is superfluity, the imprinting on the object of the fantasies that are passing through the worker's head. It justifies itself if it bears the marks of a joyous spirit.

On the other hand, good machine work is primarily based upon a complete calculation of consequences. To deviate by a hair's breadth from this calculation is to risk failure. When the workman's personality



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intervenes in the process of work it signifies carelessness; if he leaves his imprint on it, it is a flaw. Indeed, could the workman express anything, it would only be his sense of dullness, fatigue, depression—or his lack of imagination—or his desire to escape. The futility of fighting the machine was obvious even in Ruskin's day. Today our whole life is so tied to it that to cut loose would be suicide. No one but a wild and woolly visionary would deny the megaphone claims of mechanism to have made us all happy and prosperous. No one but a grouch would regret those benighted times when the primrose lanes were dull with peace and solitude and insipid with pure air—when men wandered about in a crack-brained way, drinking in the beauties of winding lane and purple ridge instead of keeping their eyes open for those hurtling mechanisms that trail odoriferous happiness and jazz harmonies of horn and rattle down every latter-day road.

No wonder Ruskin was looked upon with suspicion. Here was a man who thought that when you Taylorize craftsmen you make clods of them; who thought that pride in good work and joy in individual expression were worth cultivating; who thought that boys should be educated towards craftsmanship as a worthy and sufficing ambition, rather than as a painful and unpleasant necessity. He was too mediaeval for anything, but I wonder if he was right.

By these two books of the esthetic period of Ruskin's work, "Modern Painters" and "The Stones of Venice," around which revolved his numerous other books, pamphlets and printed lectures, he had established for himself almost a dictatorship in art matters. If Ruskin had been ambitious or self-indulgent he would have been satisfied to continue in what was now a broad, easy roadway of advance to honour and riches. "Why on earth," said his parents and closest friends, "did he want to dabble in political economy or sociology?" To quote Molière: "Qu'allait-il donc faire dans cette galère?" An amateur in art and architecture, he was trebly an amateur in these other things. Surrounded from his youth with an ever increasing affluence, he had absolutely no personal experience of want, hardship or struggle against adversity. If ever a life had been sheltered, without responsibilities, and free from the rude contact of life's realities, it was his own. He was an aristocrat to his finger tips, filled with a dogmatic arrogance that had been deepened by almost continuous success. At heart a recluse, he was never happier than when shut away with his beloved paintings, stones and botanical specimens, digging in his garden or contemplating the clouds of Heaven and the teeming wonders of earth. There was only one thing that could possibly have urged his feet into this new and stony path—and unfortunately for his peace of mind he possessed it in overflowing measure—sympathy for the oppressed and a deep love for the humble ones of the earth.

There was, of course, a good deal of estheticism mixed up with his sympathy for the working classes. The changes brought about by the industrial revolution, by the spread of railways and factories, expressed themselves primarily and most brutally on the physical aspect of the country itself. The engineers and scientists of those days had little decency or sentiment about them. They were like children with a new toy and looked upon nature rather as a bull would look upon a china shop. It was no time for sentiment, they would have said. Those English fields and hedgerows that, like a finely woven tapestry, fitted themselves into the folds of the hills, had to be torn up and

scarred across with a savage and wanton haste. Trees had to be smashed down; hawthorn and briar ground into the mud. Refuse was for the rivers, and the many colored poisons of the chemists filled the brooks with a new and horrid iridescence. Out of every material that could fashion itself into a throat there began to mingle with the morning mists an ever deepening smoke cloud. It was as if a Birnam wood of stacks and chimneys was moving to the attack amidst the shrieking incantations of factory whistles and the bubbling cauldrons of chemical wizards. And behind them, behind the chimney and the smoke, moving down the mean streets of mushroom suburbs, were the vital battalions of English peasantry—long files of rosy-cheeked country lads and lasses, forsaking the sunshine of their village greens for the flicker of gas lamps and their heather-scented commons for the rancid redolence of the gin-shop.

To most people, except Ruskin, all this was quite normal and encouraging. The Chancellor of the Exchequer could but chuckle to see his money chests bulging, and the economists to note so sure a sign of national prosperity as the ever-growing consumption of beer. Money talks, nay sings like a siren, and the song was sweet to the ears of the patriot Englishman that heralded England as the workshop of the world and London as its banking centre. But to Ruskin, the poet and prophet of beauty, it was anathema; and it is not surprising, therefore that the muttering and rumblings of wrath that are an undertone to his writings on art should seek some more direct and explicit expression.

"Unto This Last," the first and best of Ruskin's writings on Political Economy, written about 20 years after the first volume of "Modern Painters," may be considered as the turning point in his literary career, in point of style as of subject. There is a deliberate turning away from the rhapsodical style of the art books with their aphorisms and purple patches to a more sober and simple method. Now and again there are flashes of the old eloquence, and with all its simplicity the style is never commonplace; but the dominant note is a stern seriousness, a renunciation of purple and fine linen for the cowl and sandals of the missionary preacher. It was against the cold theories of the utilitarian school of Political Economists that Ruskin principally set himself. "Unto This Last" is a masterly plea for a more humanitarian and ethical standard, a standard that should give first place to the human factor, and hinge its definition of wealth on the upbuilding of a happy, healthy and religiously-purposed people.

The other great work of this period constitutes a direct appeal to the working men of England in a series of letters under the cryptic title of "Fors Clavigera"! What a title for working men to worry over! If I were to tell you what it means you might think I had retained some knowledge of Latin, which I haven't. I might indeed give Ruskin's own explanation, but as he attributes six different meanings to it, you would not be much the wiser. Ruskin had a weakness for these curious titles. One of his pamphlets entitled "The Construction of Sheepfolds," induced all the shepherds in Scotland to pay real money for its purchase, only to find that it was a treatise on the organization of the Anglican Church. I need hardly say that you can't sell Ruskin to Scotch shepherds nowadays. This book "Fors Clavigera" is disappointing. It is too discursive and full of prejudice and reckless denunciation. Ruskin was becoming querulous, and his serenity of judgment more and more



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warped by those brainstorms which so clouded the closing years of his life. It is redeemed by obvious sympathy with the poor, and much generous philanthropy concentrating on the formation of the Guild of St. George, with the object of reclaiming waste lands for cultivation, and the putting into practice of his theories on education and the improvement of living conditions amongst the working classes.

Up and down these rambling pages you will find pretty well all Ruskin's likes and dislikes. He had little use for theories or forms of government, and less for the scientific abstractions of the economists. In politics he catalogued himself as an Illiberal rather than a Conservative, because so far from desiring to conserve them there was a great number of things he was frankly anxious to destroy. The list of things he slated for destruction is typical of his whimsical exaggerations. Here they are, in his own words: Most of the railroads in England and all the railroads in Wales; to destroy and rebuild the Houses of Parliament, the National Gallery and the East End of London; to destroy, without rebuilding, the new town of Edinburgh, the North Suburb of Geneva and the City of New York. "But," he goes on, "I want still to keep the fields of England green and her cheeks red, and that girls should be taught to curtsy and boys to take their hats off when a professor or other dignified person passes by; and that kings should keep their crowns on their heads and bishops their croziers in their hands, and should duly recognize the significance of the crown and the use of the crook." Incidentally, he hated bankers and bishops. Bankers, because they dealt in usury, and bishops for failing to denounce the bankers as sinners.

Ruskin was essentially a teacher and took an intense practical interest in all matters affecting education. Perhaps one of the most loveable things in his character is this lifelong impulse to make the world as beautiful to others as it had been to him; that made him devote his evenings to teaching drawing to working men; that made him cut up his precious manuscripts for his lectures and museums, and disperse his beloved pictures to the four corners of England. Like those of Rousseau and Tolstoi, with whom Ruskin had much in common, his ideas on education were intensely personal; Utopian, if you like, looking ever backwards to Plato or the Italian Republics for inspiration. They reflect his love of order under moral authority. There is no democratic optimism as to the levelling virtue of education, but rather a stern reference to nature's laws and her remorseless differentiations. "The idea of a general education," he says in "Fors Clavigera," "which is to fit everybody to be Emperor of Russia and provoke a boy, whatever he is, to want to be something better, and, wherever he was born, to think it a disgrace to die is the most entirely and directly diabolic of all the countless stupidities into which the British nation has of late been betrayed by its avarice and irreligion." The efficiency of any school will be found to increase exactly in the ratio of its direct adaptation to the circumstances of the children it receives, and the quantity of knowledge to be attained in a given time, being equal to its value, will depend on the possibility of its instant application. "The wise proverb," he says, "ought in every schoolmaster's mind to be deeply set: 'You cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear,'" expanded with the further scollum that the flap of it will not be the least disguised by giving it a diamond earring. I call this Utopian because none of it will be admitted by a democratic age that would hitch all our children to

the stars, no matter how strong their affinities with earth.

What strange things he writes to the working people of England! To people who were clamouring for a gospel of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity he says: "Do good work, whether you live or die." He does not tell them to graft on to their dull misery, exotic growths of high culture, or lure them with the serpent promise that they shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. Just the simple precept: "Do good work whether you live or die."

That is Ruskin's message. Never mind about happiness, success, pleasure or fame! Never mind about Liberty or Equality! Do good work. Teach your children to do it in all its multiform craftsmanship of mind and hand. Teach them that good work is not only waiting for them in the hot dust and amidst the noisy plaudits of the market-place, but also in the cool shadows and silence of the by-road, just as full of blessing and the sap of growth; as much nearer, perhaps, to the source of light as were the bare feet that trod the shavings of the carpenter's shop in Nazareth than the soft-shod dwellers in the palaces of Herod.

I have not yet spoken of Ruskin as a writer. I suppose that most people would base his principal claim to survival on the magnificence of his prose. It is true, but it is only incidental, that he was a great writer, a master magician in English. The essential thing, even in judging his style, is that he made the critic's chair a pulpit. This didactic purpose influenced his style, which is essentially oratorical. Those purple patches that have been so criticized; that unorthodox poppy growth of poetry in the ordered fields of prose; those lyric qualities that would have seemed overstrained coming from the pen of a philosopher or historian, justify themselves as a presentment of some scene of beauty or work of fine art. His prose keys itself to high moral exhortation, to passionate and indignant rebuke. Ruskin is always in an ecstasy of admiration, a fervour of sympathy or a grand burst of prophetic warning. Right or wrong, he has to deliver his message whether men will stay to hear it or not, and we cannot require him to limit his pace to the plain foot-plodding of unimpassioned prose.

No teacher of prose would, I think, hold up Ruskin as a model to be imitated. Those page-long sentences thundering through parenthesis after parenthesis to an almost despaired of period, are the prerogative of genius alone. You can no more chart the breathless surge of his words than you can catalogue the waves of the ocean. Flecked and spattered with their foam of imagery, they break in untutored music—sonorous as the sea, and passionate as the battering in its caves. It is doubtful if any English prose writer has achieved greater heights, but the manner of it is unique and full of pitfalls. Before I pass on I should like to read one typical passage of Ruskin at his best. It is taken from the second volume of "The Stones of Venice," and deals with the little church of the Venetian island of Torcello: "But there is one more circumstance which we ought to remember as giving peculiar significance to the position which the episcopal throne occupies in this Island Church, namely, that in the minds of all early Christians the Church itself was most frequently symbolized under the image of a ship of which the bishop was the pilot. Consider the force which this symbol would assume in the imaginations of men to whom the Spiritual Church had become an ark of refuge in the midst of a destruction hardly less terrible than that from which the eight souls were saved of old, a destruction in which the wrath of man

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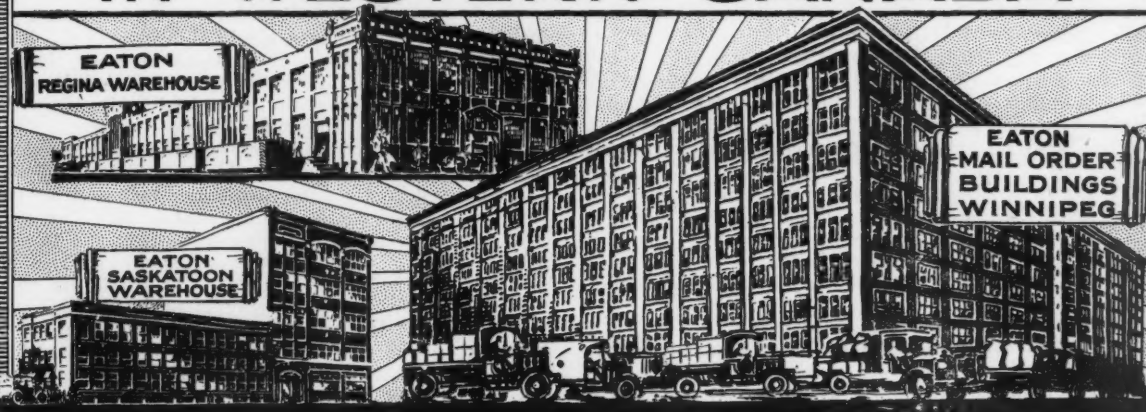
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had become as broad as the earth and as merciless as the sea, and who saw the actual and literal edifice of the Church raised up, itself like an ark in the midst of the waters. No marvel if with the surf of the Adriatic rolling between them and the shores of their birth, from which they were separated forever, they should have looked upon each other as the disciples did when the storm came down on the Tiberias Lake, and have yielded ready and loving obedience to those who ruled them in His name, who had there rebuked the winds and commanded stillness to the sea. And if the stranger would yet learn in what spirit it was that the dominion of Venice was begun, and in what strength she went forth conquering and to conquer, let him not seek to estimate the wealth of her arsenals or number of her armies, nor look upon the pageantry of her palaces, nor enter into the secrets of her councils, but let him ascend the highest tier of the stern ledges that sweep round the altar of Torcello and then, looking as the pilot did of old along the marble ribs of the goody temple ship, let him repeople its veined deck with the shadows of its dead mariners, and strive to feel in himself the strength of heart that was kindled with them, when first, after the pillars of it had settled in the sand and the roof of it had been closed against the angry sky that was still reddened by the fires of their homesteads—first within the shelter of its knitted walls, amidst the murmur of the waste of waves, and the beating of the wings of the seabirds round the rock that was strange to them—rose that ancient hymn in the power of their gathered voices: "The Sea is His and He Made It and His Hands Prepared the Dry Land."

What, after all, is the influence of Ruskin? In his day he was part of a great esthetic and religious revival. He was an inspirer of new hopes and new enthusiasms. Looking round the world today, can we say that there is any scope for that kind of influence? I am not an expert, but it seems to me that, in spite of scientific discoveries and apparent social and educational advance, people are becoming more and more confused and discontented. The ideals to which we give lip service have a wan and worn appearance alongside the robust but often ugly reality. Can it be true that automobiles and aeroplanes, radios and telephones are powerless to create a paradise? That, after all, the human heart doesn't thrive on a diet of mechanism? Can it be true that the iron of its furnaces has entered into the soul of humanity and hardened it?

A man occupying a unique vantage point recently diagnosed the ills of society. Pope Pius at a meeting of his Cardinals said there were five marks of unrest:

- (1) An unprecedented challenge to authority.
- (2) An unprecedented hatred between man and man.
- (3) An abnormal aversion to work.
- (4) An excessive thirst for pleasure as the chief aim in life.
- (5) A gross materialism which denied the reality of the spiritual in human life.

To the extent that the Pope's appraisal is true, Ruskin failed. To that extent all the beacons that he tried to light have gone out. His books may still force admiration by their eloquence, and his pleas for art and beauty be heard. But his real purpose will only be achieved when men turn again to the faded vellum of his rules for St. George's Guild and learn the bare, simple command there set down for workmen and undergraduates alike:

"Do good work whether you live or die."

Ruskin died in 1900. His literary and public life had been long and he had enjoyed a very large measure of success and the applause of men. He has made an ineffaceable mark on the literature of his time as scholar, artist and polemist. His lectures on art and architecture, both at the University of Oxford, of which he was an honored if somewhat volcanic and erratic Professor, and also in a private capacity, wherever men would gather to hear him, are a very important part of his work. As a lecturer he was original and unorthodox, full of paradoxes and whimsicalities, ranging over the whole wide world of ideas and imagery with a superb disregard of what other men might have considered to be the limitations of his subject. He was eloquent with an eloquence that held his hearers spellbound, and brought them there not so much for the matter of the discourse as for the spectacular fireworks of the lecturer. Ruskin knew this; sometimes it made him angry, sometimes he had a laugh at their expense by deliberately cutting his peroration.

Ruskin's relations with the great men of his day are full of ups and downs, quarrels and reconciliations. In spite of a naturally loving disposition and of a great personal charm when he was in the humor, Ruskin had a most uncanny faculty for either getting ruffled himself or upsetting others. Carlyle, whom Ruskin always considered as his master and guide, had a great admiration for him, but even this mutual esteem could not save them from the most bitter quarrels. He quarreled with Gladstone, Rossetti, Harrison, and most of those with whom he frequented. There was undoubtedly in his nature an irascible and bitter streak that old-age and overstrain served to deepen.

The psychologist would find in Ruskin an interesting study of a man whose sentimental life had been blasted by rejected love, betrayal and the treachery of friends, and saddest of all by the premature death of her who was his last and most passionate love. If Rosie Latouche had lived, and if this one romance at least had blossomed into flower, Ruskin's attitude towards life and society, and his literary reaction to their problems would, I believe, have been much different. His later writings give one the impression of a soul distracted by unfulfilled longing, and of an imagination that was feeding itself on the dead sea fruit of disappointed hopes.

There is a note of deepening sadness as the shadows lengthen and the silence closes around his beloved "Brantwood." His life's work was done and his last message penned many months before he actually passed out. He has not ceased to belong to that great society of which Wordsworth spoke: "The noble Living and the noble Dead." He lifted his voice through an evil and dark day in praise of high and noble things. He made the world more beautiful to those of us who were his disciples. He has passed into that guild of kindred spirits whom Kipling imagines as splashing at a ten league canvas with brushes of comet's hair; into that Utopian realm beyond the scan of science and the smear of materialism—

"Where only the Master shall praise us  
And only the Master shall blame,  
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